IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: ANZAKI, Toshiaki, et al.

Appl. No.: New Group:

Filed: August 29, 2003 Examiner:

For: ARTICLE COATED WITH ZIRCONIUM

COMPOUND FILM, METHOD FOR PREPARING THE ARTICLE AND SPUTTERING TARGET FOR USE IN COATING WITH THE FILM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 29, 2003

Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This reply includes:

Amendment to the Specification

Remarks